

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10488 071657Z

73

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 SMI-01 HEW-08 IO-14 AID-20 NSF-04

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /085 W

----- 124842

R 071427Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3144

INFO DA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10488

DEPT PASS TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR DILLON RIPLEY;
HEW FOR SURGEON GENERAL

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS DATED 01 AUG.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1754

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IN

SUBJ: INDIAN GOVERNMENT DEFENSE OF WHO-SPONSORED
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

REF: BOMBAY 1747

1. TEXT FOLLOWS LETTER OF JUNE 15, 1974 (REFTEL) LESS ENCLOSURES SENT BY BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (SIGNED BY J.C. DANIEL, CURATOR) TO T.V. NARASIMHAN, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOI, IN RESPONSE QUERY ADDRESSED BY LATTER SOCIETY. LETTER SUGGESTS GOI FULLY INFORMED ON THIS MATTER BY SOCIETY IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

2. "I REFER TO THE CONVERSATION WE HAD THIS AFTERNOON AND IN RESPECT OF THE SPECIFIC QUERIES RAISED BY YOU I CONFIRM THAT:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10488 071657Z

(1) THE SOCIETY AT THE MOMENT DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL

AID FROM ANY FOREIGN SOURCE.

- (2) THE SOCIETY HAS NO FIELD RESEARCH OR OTHER ACTIVITIES IN NORTH EASTERN INDIA.
- (3) THE SOCIETY HAS NO FIELD RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN NORTH EASTERN INDIA WITH WALKIE-TALKIE EQUIPMENT.

I READ THE PRESS REPORT ACCUSING THE SOCIETY OF UNDERSIRABLE ACTIVITIES. A MOST DISTRESSING AND MALICIOUS CANARD. I PERSONALLY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE SHOULD TRY TO DISCREDIT OUR ORGANIZATION AND QUESTION THE INTEGRITY OF ITS OFFICE BEARERS AND ITS STAFF.

IT MAY PERHAPS BE USEFUL TO GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON OUR BIRD MIGRATION PROGRAMME, WHICH OBVIOUSLY IS THE CAUSE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS. IN 1959, DR. SALIM ALI ATTENDED A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AT GENEVA OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AS THERE WAS ANXIETY EXPRESSED BY THAT ORGANIZATION REGARDING THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF A VIRULENT TYPE OF VIRUS ENCEPHALITIS IN THE KYASANUR FOREST DIVISION OF MYSORE. THIS DISEASE CLOSELY RESEMBLED A SIMILAR VIRUS DISEASE ENDEMIC TO THE OMSK REGION OF RUSSIA. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT BIRDS MAY PERHAPS CARRY THE ARTHROPOD PARASITES, WHICH ARE THE VECTORS OF THE DISEASE, AND IT WAS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXAMINE THE MIGRATORY BIRDS VISITING INDIA FROM RUSSIA AND ELSEWHERE FOR PARASITES, AND ALSO TAKE BLOOD SAMPLES FOR STUDY. DR SALIM ALI AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THIS INVESTIGATION IN INDIA AND THE PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UP TO 1966. THE BLOOD SAMPLES COLLECTED WERE SENT TO THE INSTITUTE OF DISEASES WITH NATURAL FOCI AT OMSK, U.S.S.R. FOR STUDY AND THE TICKS OBTAINED WERE EXAMINED AND REPORTED ON BY THE VIRUS RESEARCH CENTRE AT POONA. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS PERIOD IN 1967 WE RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE EXTENT OF \$5000 FROM THE MIGRATORY ANIMAL PATHOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE U.S. FOR CONTINUING THIS WORK.

THIS IS PERHAPS THE GENESIS FOR ALL THE ALLEGED BWS.# WE HAVE NOT NOT RECEIVED ANY FURTHER FUNDS FROM THIS SOURCE, AND SUBSEQUENT WORK HAS BEEN A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE SMITHSONIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON AND THE SOCIETY, AND WAS FUNDED UNDER THE PL480 PROGRAMMES. OUR PROJECT PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION AND THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED WITH THE SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FIN-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10488 071657Z

ANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. DURING THIS PERIOD OF ACTIVITIES WE HAD SEVERAL RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS FROM THE OMSK INSTITUTE WORKING WITH US COLLECTING BLOOD SAMPLES FROM BIRDS AT OUR CAMPS. AS FAR AS THE PERSONNEL OF THE CAMPS ARE CONCERNED THEY WERE EXCLUSIVELY MANNED BY INDIAN CITIZENS AND NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN OUR WORK. FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1972-73 AND 1973-74 ASSISTANCE FOR THE BIRD MIGRATION STUDY ACTIVITIES WAS RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. OUR MAJOR CAMPS

WERE AT BHARATPUR AND POINT CALIMERE. I ENCLOSE A COPY OF OUR REPORT ON OUR ACTIVITIES FROM 1959 TO 1972, AND I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SPARE TIME TO READ THE REPORT, WHICH YOU MAY FIND OF SOME INTEREST.

AS FAR AS THE WALKIE-TALKIE EQUIPMENT IS CONCERNED, I ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE ORDER PERMITTING PROF STEVEN GREEN OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY, WHO IS STUDYING THE ENDANGERED LION-TAILED MACAQUE OF SOUTH INDIA. PROF GREEN'S RESEARCH HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY US. AS YOU WILL NOTICE THE USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS RESTRICTED TO 10 KM OF THE MANJOLAI AREA. INCIDENTALLY THE MANJOLAI ESTATE COMPLEX NEAR AMBASAMUDRAM IS ABOUT 30 MILES FROM CAPE COMORIN.

I HOPE I HAVE SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED OUR POSITION AND WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY REQUIRE."

3. ENCLOSURES TO LETTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) BIRD MIGRATION REPORT.
 - B) COPY OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION NO. L-14021/41/73-LR, DATED 22-2-1974.
 - C) LIST OF EXECUTIVE & ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY.
 - D) BROCHURE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY.
 - E) PROSPECTUS OF THE SOCIETY.
- BANE UNQUOTE. MOYNIHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, CHEMICAL WARFARE, PRESS COMMENTS, DISEASE CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE10488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740216-0153
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740867/aaaacfrd.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BOMBAY 1747
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN GOVERNMENT DEFENSE OF WHO-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
TAGS: TBIO, IN, US, WHO, BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, (ALI, SALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005